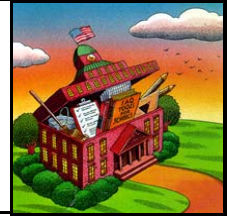


# Connecticut IAQ Tools for Schools Success Stories



According to a 2000 study by the CT Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE), up to 70% of CT schools have indoor air quality (IAQ) problems. During the past 8 years, there have been many accomplishments contributing towards improved IEQ and health in CT schools. The implementation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) IAQ *Tools for Schools* (TfS) program has helped to address these problems in over 700 schools in Connecticut. Some of the accomplishments after the implementation of TfS include:

## Improved Health Outcomes

- A decrease in IAQ complaints of 66% or greater in 9 out of 13 elementary schools. (Waterford)
- A reduction in IAQ complaints from 70 to 3 in two years. (Amity Region 5)
- An 11% percent (4,978) reduction in the number of visits to the school nurse. (North Haven)
- A decrease of 48% in the number of reported cases of respiratory-related illnesses. (North Haven)
- A decline of 21.2% (from 11,334 to 8,929) in asthma incidents in one year. (Hartford)
- Absenteeism cut by more than half (Hamden)
- Number of asthma-related health office visits decreased from 463 to 82 over 4 years. (Chester)
- Positive health impacts documenting the relationship between improved IAQ and health were demonstrated in 17 separate studies. (Carnegie Mellon University Center for Building Performance, 2005/ Greening America's Schools, Capital E., 2006).

## Cost Savings

- Decreased insurance premiums. The CT Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA), a CT insurance provider, reviewed 47 member school districts that have implemented TfS. Fifteen districts (32%), saw a decrease in IAQ claims frequency. The average decrease was 3.6 claims. The severity of claims decreased 87%, for a total savings of \$56,705.
- Increased efficiency through system changes, staff utilization, and new equipment.
- Decreased energy costs with well maintained buildings and equipment.

## Positive Public Relations

- Positive feedback from teacher's unions
- Positive media coverage.
- Improved faculty and staff morale.
- Increased community trust.

## Improved Academic Performance

- A recent critical review of the literature confirms that poor IAQ in schools adversely impacts student health and productivity. Poor IAQ can reduce academic performance by 2 to 6 percent. (Mendell & Heath, 2005; *Indoor Air*; 15 (1):27-52).
- Growing evidence that increased ventilation rates lead to higher reading and math scores.

### Connecticut EPA Excellence Award Winning School Districts!

Waterford	Hamden	North Haven	Norwich
Hartford	Amity Region 5	Ridgefield	CT Technical High School System

This national award is given to a few select schools who have displayed exemplary IAQ programs. Find out more about this award and how to apply at [www.epa.gov/iaq/schools](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools)

(Over)

